

II. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Status

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19-24, and 30 are pending with claims 25-29 being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 16, and 20 have been amended.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19-24, and 30 stand rejected. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,083,047 to Paagman, hereinafter "Paagman." Claims 1, 4, 5, 13-24, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,461,202 to Kline, hereinafter "Kline." Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Paagman in view of the American Heritage Dictionary. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Paagman.

Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for rejection and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19-24, and 30 in view of the following.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Independent claims 1, 16, and 20, as amended, includes features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, either taken alone or in combination, namely as represented by claim 1:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector comprising:
a substantially planar dielectric;
a substantially planar ground plane disposed on one planar surface of the dielectric;
and
a plurality of differential pair signal conductors disposed on the opposing planar surface of the dielectric, each signal conductor is located in a first plane substantially parallel to the ground plane and each differential pair of signal conductors comprises a corresponding pair of signal contact pins, *each pair of signal contact pins **defining** a plane substantially **orthogonal** to the ground plane.* (emphasis added)

Paagman does not disclose or suggest an electrical connector having each pair of signal contact pins defining a plane substantially *orthogonal* to the ground plane, as recited by the claims. In contrast, Paagman discloses all signal contact pins 34 being located in a plane substantially *parallel* with the ground plane 36 (Fig. 2).

Kline does not disclose or suggest an electrical connector having each pair of signal contact pins defining a plane substantially *orthogonal* to the ground plane, as recited by the claims. In contrast, Kline discloses pairs of signal contact pins 96 being located in a plane substantially *parallel* with the ground shield 84 (Fig. 5).

Applicant has attached a copy of the Office Action, page 10, in which the examiner has illustrated, from Kline, a ground plane 84P and a plane 96P in making the rejection. The claims, as amended, recite the feature of "each pair of signal contact pins defining a plane substantially orthogonal to the ground plane." Applicant has marked the illustration with plane 96P' that represents a plane defined by a pair of signal contact pins corresponding to a differential pair of signal conductors. Plane 96P' is *parallel* with ground plane 84P, not *orthogonal*, as recited by the claims.

Accordingly, applicant submits that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 1, 16, or 20. Additionally, inasmuch as dependent claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, and 21-24 (which have also been rejected) are dependent on claim 1, 16, or 20, these claims are patentable over the cited references, at least by virtue of their dependency. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal the rejections of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19-24, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103.

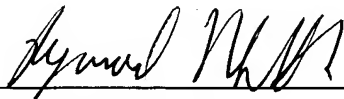
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PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the office action and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Raymond N. Scott Jr. at (215) 564-8951, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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